

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 29, 2006. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the Office Action are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claim 19 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1-7 and 9-18 have been amended. Support for the claim changes can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added. Claims 1-7 and 12-18 are in independent form.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 1-18 have been allowed. Since Claim 19 has been canceled, the subject application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action (pages 3-4), the Examiner set forth reasons for allowance for three groups of allowed claims. Applicants note for the record that not all of the features cited by the Examiner are recited in each of the indicated claims. In regard to the reasons given for the second and third groups of claims, it is noted that the Examiner's statements are garbled.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. W. Pinsky', written over a horizontal line.

Douglas W. Pinsky
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 46,994

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
DWP/klm

DC_MAIN 258338v1